

component, palladium and the promoter, Group IB metal existing in the form of oxides in the support are reduced to fine alloy particles with a diameter of about 2-10 nm.

12. (Original) The catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the dispersion depth is within the thickness between the support surface and the depth of 500-1000 μm .

13. (Currently Amended) The catalyst according to claim 1, further comprising alkali metals and/or ~~alkali~~ alkaline earth metals.

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of the claims to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-13, drawn to a catalyst,;

Group II: Claims 14-15, drawn to a process of preparing a catalyst;

Group III: Claim 16, drawn to a process of preparing a chemical composite support of alumina and titania; and

Group IV: Claims 17-18, drawn to a process of selective hydrogenation of alkynes and dienes using a catalyst.

Pursuant to the telephone conversation between Applicants' representative, James G. Markey, and the Examiner on June 18, 2003, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-13), for prosecution in the present application, without prejudice to prosecute any of the non-elected subject matters in one or more related applications.

Claims 1, 5, 11, and 13 have been amended to correct informalities and to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are claims 1 through 13.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace “Pd” with “palladium,” and to correct informalities, as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 1 now complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Withdrawal of this rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been amended to replace “catalyst support” with “catalyst,” and informalities have been corrected. Thus, claim 5 now complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct informalities and to more particularly point out that the active component is palladium, and the promoter is Group IB metal. This claim is fully supported by the originally-filed specification, *inter alia*, pages 4-6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully decline to incorporate the Examiner’s suggestion to change “wherein the active component, palladium and the promoter, Group IB metal” to “wherein the active component palladium, the promoter, and Group IB metal.” Withdrawal of this rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been amended to replace “alkali earth metals” with “alkaline earth metals and to correct informalities. Claim 13 now complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner’s indication that claims 1-13 contain allowable subject matter. As all informalities have been corrected, early allowance of the application is most respectfully requested.

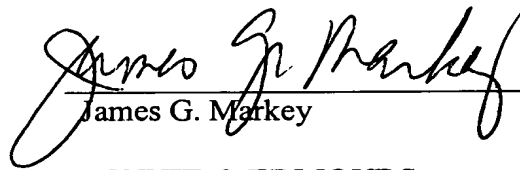
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been overcome and that the present claims are now in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due for this amendment. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Reg. No.)

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